Barren land in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh

†2166. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of barren land in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether Government have any comprehensive scneme for plantation on the said barren land; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any action plan for participation of the people in converting the said barren land into fertile land?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As per the Wastelands Atlas of India 2000, the total area of barren land in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh is 0.052 m.ha. and 0.099 m.ha. respectively.

(b) and (c) There is no specific scheme for plantation on barren land. However, Department of land Resources is implementing three major programmes for development of wastelands through watershed approach namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme. The Activities undertaken in these programmes include soil and moisture conservation, water harvesting, pasture development, promotion of horticulture and agro-forestry, afforestation etc. depending upon the site specific requirement. Institutional mechanism ensuring people's participation at all stages of development including planning, implementation, and maintenance aspects of the project is envisaged in these programmes.

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†Orginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.